

PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE DEPARTMENT

2011 saw many changes at the Stow Police Department. I would like to begin the Police Department's 2011 annual town report on a few personal notes.

First, I would like to acknowledge Chief Mark H. Trefry's retirement as the Department's Police Chief. Chief Trefry worked for the Town for more than thirty years on the Tree, Fire, EMS, Highway, and Police Departments. Chief Trefry has had a long and distinguished career with the Police Department; working his way up through the ranks from Auxiliary Officer to Patrolman, to Detective, to Sergeant, Lieutenant, and, finally, serving as Chief of Police, over the last six years. The Department will miss Chief Trefry's competence, dedication, diligence, caring, and pro-active, "can-do, will-do" attitude. All members of the Police Department congratulate Chief Trefry and wish him a happy and healthy retirement, and thank him for his long and distinguished service and many contributions to the Police Department and to the Town of Stow.

I would like to thank my co-workers at the Police Department and all Public Safety employees at the Fire and Highway Departments, along with the many other Town employees, citizens of Stow, my colleagues, friends, and family who supported me in the Police Chief's search process over this past year. I acknowledge and appreciate your efforts and support during the somewhat lengthy selection process for Police Chief in Stow. I would also take this opportunity to thank the Police Chief Search Committee, The Honorable Board of Selectmen, and Town Administrator for their support. It is an honor and privilege to serve as Chief of Police in Stow. I will put forth my best effort on a day-to-day basis to be a successful Police Chief and to continue the service and success of the Stow Police Department. I look forward to my job and its challenges with enthusiasm.

This past year we hired three new full-time employees. In January, we hired Robert Nelson as a Patrolman to replace Officer Maskalenko, who returned to the Pepperell Police Department after a short stint in Stow. Officer Nelson was previously employed at the Southborough Police Department. He has been a great asset to the Stow Police Department and we welcome him aboard. Bob currently is working the 11pm to 7am shift. In January, we also hired Samantha Howard as a Public Safety Dispatcher. Samantha came to us from the Hudson Police Department. She was hired to replace Dispatcher Morton-Pelley who retired to spend more time with her family. Samantha has been working the 11pm to 7am shift and is currently attending the part-time Reserve Police Officer academy in Boylston. In August we hired Christopher Harrington as a Patrolman to replace the open position due to the retirement of Chief Trefry. Chris has worked for approximately ten years on the Bolton Police Department. Chris has brought a lot of new energy and enthusiasm to the department and he is currently working the 11 pm to 7 am shift. Officer Harrington has implemented the Child Safety Seat installation program over the past few months. You can link to this information on our website at www.stow-ma.gov or call the station and leave a voice mail for Officer Harrington.

On February 3, 2011 Sergeant Lima, Officer Thraen, Detective Sallese, and Dispatcher Howard along with members of the Stow Fire Department possibly saved the lives of two Stow residents. The weather conditions were extremely cold, with deep snow on the ground and at 10:55 pm the department received a cellular 911 call for a lost father and son in the Delaney Wildlife Management Area. Using GPS technology and mapping at the Police Department, Detective Sallese and Dispatcher Howard were able to determine an estimated location of the caller's cell phone.

The only option for the first responders was to walk into the area to find the victims. The snow was too deep to utilize the Department's SUV or ATV. It required a significant physical effort to locate the victims and became an urgent situation once that they were found. The son suffered from hypothermia and frostbite and was lodged deep in the snow. Sergeant Lima picked up the son and carried him on his back most of the way out of the woods, but after 20 minutes, Sergeant Lima became exhausted which was when he met the Firefighters, who were able to take the son out of the woods on a sled. Both victims were treated at the scene by ALS for their serious medical conditions, and were transported to UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester, the nearest Trauma Center. Both victims were treated and have recovered from their injuries.

The heroic actions of our Police Officers and Firefighters helped to turn a potential tragedy into a successful rescue operation. Their can-do, will-do attitude, cooperation, teamwork and heads-up thinking are all critical success factors. I thank all involved; their dedication, swift response, and actions are a credit to themselves, to the Police and Fire Departments and to the Town of Stow.

The Police Department continues to pursue pro-active cost-control and management strategies. The Police Department traded in approximately 25 new 16" tires plus a 2003 Ford Crown Victoria with 130,000 miles toward the purchase of a new 2011 Ford Crown Victoria which was a left-over model with more cost savings. The Police Department continues to use creative scheduling in order to better manage overtime expenses and continues the use of energy-efficient light bulbs and electrical fixtures. We recycle all cardboard and light bulbs and continue to maintain the paper-recycling bin in the parking lot.

The Police Department continues pro-active training programs, in order to better serve the community and to professionalize the Police Department. Jon Butler graduated from the FBI Weapons Instructor School held at Fort Devens. Jon also attended the SIG-Arms course and has been certified as a Range-Master, and a low light firearms instructor. This training allowed the Police Department to conduct its first-ever low-light firearms training along with more advanced firearms techniques, strategies, and tactics.

Detective Sallese attended an Advanced Roadside Impaired-Driving Enforcement Class, a Basic Fire Investigation Class at the Massachusetts State Fire Academy in Stow, as well as a number of other High-Tech Crime classes and seminars. Detective Sallese would like to remind all Stow citizens that internet crime and identity theft is rampant. Please make a special effort to protect your identity and **Do Not** give out any personal information to

anyone with whom you are not familiar, under any circumstances, and Never send money to any unfamiliar or unknown party who may claim that you have won money or a prize, and that they need a certified check in order to release your “winnings”. If you should think that you may be a victim of Identity Theft, please call the Police Department immediately.

The Police Department entered in a partnership with Communities for Restorative Justice (www.C4RJ.com). Restorative Justice is described in their newsletter as “a process to involve, to the extent possible, those who have a stake in an offense and to collectively identify and address harms, needs and obligations, in order to heal, and put things right as possible”. We look forward to begin working with “C4RJ” as the program has been very successful in surrounding communities such as Acton, Boxboro, Concord, Carlisle, Littleton, Ayer, and Groton. We also have continued our successful relationship with Domestic Violence Services Network (www.dvsn.org) with their ongoing partnership and assistance with the Police Department and the ongoing issues involved in domestic violence cases, training, referrals and meetings.

In the past year we unveiled the new Stow Police Department “Facebook” page (www.facebook.com/stowpolice), which has been very successful and popular. We are planning to turn the site into a Stow “Public Safety” Facebook page and include the Fire and Highway Departments to share information from all three agencies. We appreciate the support and the involvement in this new site by our “followers” who have “friended” us on Facebook and we look forward to continued growth in this exciting project.

This past year Mother Nature was one of our biggest challenges with extensive snowstorms over the winter months, tropical storm Irene in August, and the Halloween snowstorm. I would like to thank the Fire Department, Highway Department, Board of Health, Medical Reserve Corp, Council on Aging, and all other agencies that assisted us in these challenging events. I appreciate all the support of these agencies and the patience of a vast majority of Stow residents during these storms.

The Police Department was awarded the Southern New England AAA Pedestrian Safety Award for Ten Years without a pedestrian fatality. Officer Chris Harrington accepted this award on our behalf and we proudly have this on display in our lobby.

We have continued to improve our video security system internally and externally at the police department. These improvements have greatly increased our security and reduced the risk of liability.

The D.A.R.E. Program, in its 20th year, has continued to succeed in the Stow schools with Officer Thraen instructing the fifth and eighth grade classes on the program to help resist pressures which may influence the students to experiment with alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, inhalants, and other drugs. They are introduced to the D.A.R.E. Decision Making Model that will assist them in problem-solving and help them make wise decisions. Students who meet the five requirements will participate in the graduation ceremony and receive a certificate. It is with sincere appreciation for the Alice Eaton

Fund that we can continue the D.A.R.E. Program. They have provided the necessary funding for student workbooks, supplies and also covering the graduation expenses.

On November 23, 2011 we tragically lost Dorothy Weiss, a 98-year-old resident of Whitman Street, in a fatal house fire. Ms. Weiss was a popular fixture in the Town of Stow and she will be greatly missed. Our sympathy goes out to her family and friends. I would like to personally thank Detective Sturtevant and Officer Harrington, along with the members of the Stow Fire Department, for making a heroic and valiant effort to rescue Dorothy Weiss.

We have a few volunteers from Stow whom we would like to recognize and thank for their dedication and support of the Police Department. Paul Yannoni is a major contributor to maintaining, installing and making recommendations for the purchase of modern technology for our high-tech computers and security systems. Also, Kathleen Willis is an avid gardener who prepares and maintains the area for plantings to help beautify the police station.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all Stow Departments for their continued help and cooperation, with special thanks to the Highway and Fire Departments with whom we work on a daily basis and without whose continued help we would not be as successful. I would also like to personally thank the Police Officers, Public Safety Dispatchers and Administrative Assistant Rachel Belanger for all they do to help make the department what it is. I would also like to acknowledge the Stow Independent and the Maynard Beacon Villager for their support and honest reporting of the Stow Police Department's logs and news throughout the year. And, last but not least, I would like to thank the citizens of Stow, the Honorable Board of Selectmen, and Town Administrator William Wrigley for their continued support throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

William Bosworth, Chief of Police

Rachel R. Belanger, Administrative
Assistant

Ralph Marino, Sergeant
Timothy Lima, Sergeant
Steven B. Sturtevant, Detective
Gary P. Murphy, Prosecutor
David J. Goguen, Patrolman
Darren J. Thraen, D.A.R.E. Officer
Sean M. Collins, Patrolman
Michael Sallese, Detective
Robert Nelson, Patrolman
Christopher Harrington, Patrolman

John Fantasia, Public Safety Dispatcher
Jonathan Butler, Public Safety
Dispatcher
Darlene Trefry, Public Safety Dispatcher
Samantha Howard, Public Safety
Dispatcher
Justine St. John, Public Safety
Dispatcher (part-time)
Nancy Campbell, Public Safety
Dispatcher (part-time)

John Fantasia, Special Officer
Jonathan Butler, Special Officer
James F. Finneran, Special Officer

Robert F. Blanton, Special Officer
 Lee Heron, Special Officer
 Michael Smith, Special Officer
 John Connors, Special Officer
 Enrico Maldari, Special Officer

Rachel R. Belanger, Matron
 Darlene D. Trefry, Matron
 Phyllis Tower, Matron
 Richard Tower, Prisoner Watch

Darlene Trefry, Auxiliary Officer

Deborah L. Richardson, Matron

POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

<u>Activity</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Accidental 911 Calls	88	95	110				
911 Calls	964	869	1215	Domestic Disturbances	10	13	11
Alarms	212	188	194	Found/Lost Property	54	56	51
Animal Calls	246	191	204	General Complaints	229	198	207
Annoying Calls	2	11	5	House Checks	786	1069	1418
Assaults	24	27	18	Larcenies	47	36	35
Assist Citizens	573	448	476	Medical Calls	332	353	348
Assist Other Agency	236	288	220	Missing Persons	6	6	3
Auto Theft	0	1	1	MV Accidents	89	101	96
Burglary	18	12	12	MV Stops	2597	3487	3289
Bylaw Violations	8	8	19	Suspicious Activity	376	394	317
Citations	1867	2455	2312	Threats	3	3	1
Disturbances	15	13	18	Vandalism	32	60	30
Disabled MV Calls	113	108	92				
Total Calls For Service					15,133	17,756	16,996

FIRE/RESCUE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department provides the Town of Stow with Emergency Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The dedicated individuals of this department work tirelessly, around the clock, responding to a wide range of emergency calls.

2011 was again a very busy year for the Fire Department. Your department responded to 823 combined fire and medical calls. Some of the major calls we answered are as